

## The Village Trippers

- [David Amram](#)
- [Tom Chapin](#)
- [The Chapin Sisters](#)
- [Diana Jones](#)
- [Yoshiko Kline](#)
- [David Massengill](#)
- [Lucy McDiarmid](#)
- [Kenneth Radnofsky](#)
- [Cecilia Rubino](#)
- [Happy Traum](#)

**David Amram**, The Village Trip Artist-in-Residence, started his professional life in music as a French hornist in the National Symphony Orchestra (Washington, DC) in the early 1950s, as well as playing French horn in the legendary jazz bands of Charles Mingus, Dizzy Gillespie and Lionel Hampton. Appointed by Leonard Bernstein as the first Composer-in-Residence for the New York Philharmonic in 1966, he also composed the scores for the films *Pull My Daisy* (1959), *Splendor in The Grass* (1960) and *The Manchurian Candidate* (1962), and for Joseph Papp's Shakespeare In the Park from 1956-1967. He premiered his comic opera, *12th Night* with Papp's libretto in 1968, and wrote a second opera, *The Final Ingredient, An Opera of the Holocaust*, for ABC Television in 1965. From 1964-66, David was the Composer and Music Director for the Lincoln Center Theater and wrote the score for Arthur Miller's plays *After the Fall* (1964) and *Incident at Vichy* (1966).

A prolific composer for over 60 years, David Amram's most recent symphonic compositions include *This Land: Symphonic Variations On A Song By Woody Guthrie* (2007), commissioned by the Guthrie Foundation, performed by the Colorado Symphony with Amram conducting and recorded by Newport Classics in 2015; *Giants of the Night* (2002) commissioned and premiered by flutist Sir James Galway; *Kokopeli, A Symphony in Three Movements* (1995), premiered by the Nashville Symphony Orchestra with Amram conducting; and *Three Songs, A Concerto for Piano and Orchestra* (2009).

He has also collaborated as a composer with Elia Kazan, Eugene Ormandy, Langston Hughes and Jacques D'Amboise; as a musician with Thelonious Monk, Johnny Depp, Hunter S Thompson, Odetta, Bob Dylan, Willie Nelson, Betty Carter, Floyd Red Crow

Westerman, Arlo Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Paquito D’Rivera and Tito Puente.

In 1957, David created and performed in the first ever Jazz/Poetry readings in New York City with novelist Jack Kerouac, a close friend with whom he collaborated artistically for over 12 years. Since the early 1950s, he has traveled the world extensively, working as a musician and a conductor in over 35 countries, including Cuba, Kenya, Egypt, Pakistan, Israel, Latvia and China. He also regularly crisscrosses the United States and Canada.

David Amram is the author of three memoirs, *Nine Lives of a Musical Cat* (2009), *Offbeat: Collaborating with Kerouac* (2005) and the highly acclaimed *Vibrations* (1968, 2007), all published by Routledge Taylor and Francis. His archive of professional and personal papers was acquired by the Lincoln Center of the Performing Arts Branch of the New York Public Library. And, he was the subject of the full-length feature documentary *David Amram: The First Eighty Years*, which is available on Vimeo On Demand. He is currently at work on his fourth book, *David Amram: The Next 80 Years*.

In 2011, David Amram was inducted into the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame as recipient of the Jay McShann Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2013 he was presented with Clearwater’s *Pete and Toshi Seeger Annual Power of Song Award*. In 2015, The Theater for the New City honored him with their annual *Love & Courage Award*. And in recognition of his enormous achievements and continuing contributions to the cultural life of New York City, Brooklyn College presented David Amram with an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts and chose him as their commencement speaker.

In 2016 he received several awards for his lifetime of work as a classical composer, improvising multi-instrumentalist and pioneer of World Music. He toured internationally, premiering *Three Lost Loves* for alto saxophone, violin and piano. The New York Chamber Music Festival chose David as their composer in residence for their 2016-2017 season.

In 2017, he composed *Partners: A Double Concerto for Violin, Cello and Orchestras*, made a string orchestra version of his *Greenwich Village Portraits* for saxophone and orchestra, was made a Lifetime member of the Actors Studio and was given a special award by FarmAid for 30 years of annual collaborations with Willie Nelson to help support America’s family farmers through music.

In 2018 he composed the score for Oscar-winning director Barbara Kopple's new documentary feature film about Iraqi and Syrian refugees in Canada.

In early 2019, the New York Philharmonic's brass quintet will present the New York premiere of his *Fanfare and Processional*. David will be conducting a symphony concert at Carnegie Hall and composing *Voyages for Unaccompanied Violin* for Elmira Darvarova.

Constantly composing, David Amram continues to perform as a guest conductor, soloist, multi-instrumentalist, band leader and narrator in five languages.

Further information [here](#)

**Tom Chapin's** career spans five decades, 26 albums and three Grammy awards. The *New York Times* has called him "one of the great personalities in contemporary folk music." A multi-talented singer-songwriter-guitarist, Tom has covered a vast swathe of creative ground. In addition to his work as a recording artist and concert performer, he has acted on Broadway, as well as working extensively in television, radio and film.

As a music-maker, Tom has maintained two long and productive parallel careers, both as a respected contemporary folk artist and as a pioneer in the field of children's music. In both roles, he has established a reputation for insightful, heartfelt songcraft and charismatic live performances. His witty, life-affirming original songs convey positive messages about family, good food and the green earth. Tom accompanies himself on guitar, banjo and autoharp.

Tom Chapin's new CD, *At The Turning Point*, was recorded live in concert in December 2017, and released in 2018. It features a collection of some favorite tunes from the singer-songwriter's long career. He is backed by Jon Cobert and Michael Mark, and Tom's daughters, the Chapin Sisters, Abigail and Lily, and Jessica Craven. Its release commemorates the thirtieth anniversary of his band recording and touring together.

"I have been singing songs of hope, possibility, love and family these days, which feel immensely important at this particularly dark and divided moment in our history," Tom says.

In addition to his musical and media endeavors, Tom Chapin is also a powerful advocate on behalf of a number of charitable organizations. He is a board member of WhyHunger,

the organization which his older brother, the late singer-songwriter/activist Harry Chapin, founded in the 1970s. He also remains active in a variety of environmental causes, as well as efforts on behalf of music and the arts in our public schools.

Further information [here](#)

**The Chapin Sisters** carry on a proud family musical legacy: father Tom Chapin is a Grammy-winning singer-songwriter; legendary late uncle Harry Chapin was a musical artist and activist best known for his 1974 #1 hit "Cat's in the Cradle"; and grandfather Jim Chapin was an esteemed jazz drummer and author of seminal drum instructional books.

"Prepare to lose your soul," said *LA Record* of the Chapin Sisters' seventh recording, *Ferry Boat*. Produced by drummer/composer Evan Taylor, it features two songs each by Abigail and Lily alongside their take on a number written with them in mind by friend and musical compatriot, banjo player and multi-instrumentalist Hilary Hawke.

Abigail and Lily have been singing and harmonizing from their youth, first in Brooklyn, and later the Hudson River Valley, heard on their father's recordings, as well as at festivals, benefits and tribute shows. The sisters had relocated to Los Angeles after graduating from college to pursue non-musical creative interests when they got an opportunity to record as a trio with their half-sister Jessica Craven (daughter of film director Wes Craven) in the home studio of singer Michael Fitzpatrick (Fitz and The Tantrums).

The resulting seven-song, self-titled 2005 debut EP enjoyed strong support from the taste-making LA indie radio station KCRW as a demo and spawned a viral underground hit with their reinterpretation of the Britney Spears hit "Toxic." The three began performing and put out a debut album, *Lake Bottom LP*, in 2008. Since Jessica bowed out of the group following the birth of her first child, Abigail and Lily have carried on with another EP (*Oh, Hear the Wind Blow*), two albums (*Two* and *Today's Not Yesterday*) and a warmly received, gender-shifting album salute to another set of harmony-singing siblings, *A Date with the Everly Brothers*.

*Ferry Boat* was recorded in New York City and it is the first recording by Abigail and Lily since they each gave birth to a first child. The sessions for the EP had further emotional

ripples due to being recorded some two weeks after the November 2016 presidential elections. "Music is a place that feels nourishing for us," says Lily. "In our current political climate, an escape from reality is no longer possible, but the time spent in the studio was certainly a refuge."

"Music is something positive that we could put into the world. And now as new mothers it feels more powerful than ever," concludes Abigail.

Further information [here](#)

**Diana Jones** has been called the "Emily Dickinson of song" and "the female Johnny Cash." But a journey of adoption and reunion as mysterious as her songwriting led to the gritty, authentic, Americana storytelling that has become her life's work and her live show. Adopted as an infant, Diana grew up in suburban Long Island feeling an unexplained attraction to rural Southern music. "My brother had Johnny Cash's *Live at Folsom Prison* album, and I stole it from his room. Whenever I heard that or someone like Emmylou Harris, I'd think, 'Wow, that's beautiful.' I just didn't know where to find more of it." In her twenties the attraction was explained when Jones met her biological grandfather, a singer and guitar player, who introduced her to the folk songs her ancestors had been singing for generations. Gradually she discovered an uncanny affinity for Appalachian music and began claiming it as her own as she discovered her true artistic calling.

With five original recordings to her name, Diana Jones makes the kind of records that signaled popular breakthroughs of artists such as Joan Baez or a Judy Collins at the height of the folk or singer-songwriter movements of the 1960s and '70s. Her 2006 debut *My Remembrance of You* earned her a nomination as Best Emerging Artist at the Folk Alliance Awards, leading to tours with Richard Thompson and Mary Gauthier, appearances at folk festivals on both sides of the Atlantic, and covers of her songs by Gretchen Peters ("If I Had a Gun") and Joan Baez ("Henry Russell's Last Words"). Diana has performed and toured with artists including Richard Thompson, Nanci Griffith, Steve Earle, Mary Gauthier, Ralph Stanley, and Janis Ian.

Joan Baez, in an interview for the *New York Times*, said that writers of Ms Jones's caliber come along only every so often. "There's some kind of channeling from some other lifetime going on, I don't know the answer to these things, but all I can think of is that it must come from some mysterious part of her soul."

Further information [here](#)

**Yoshiko Kline** performs as recitalist, soloist, and chamber musician throughout Asia and the New England area. Her most recent travels brought her to Shenzhen China where she performed with saxophonist Kenneth Radnofsky. Yoshiko's performances have been reported as "carefully colored and musically refined ... with a sensitive ear, relating sound to musical expression... Her remarkably unique interpretations were the charm of her performance..."

Since her debut concert, in Tokyo, she has appeared in the Steinway Concert Hall in China, Boston's Jordan Hall, Museum of Fine Arts, and Gardner Museum; as well as The Tanglewood Music Festival, the New York Keyboard Festival and Aspen Music Festival. Performances have also been broadcast live from the studios of Boston radio stations WGBH and WMNB and Aspen, CO Radio KAJX. In addition to her classical interests, she excels as a contemporary artist performing and premiering new works for numerous emerging composers, artists and ensembles. Her solo CD, *Jon Meets Yoshiko*, released in December 2015 by Phoenicia Publishing, is a collection of neo-classical, neo-romantic piano music by Jon Appleton.

Yoshiko has been fortunate enough to educate a diverse group of all ages in both private and classroom settings. She is currently a faculty member at Winchester Community Music School, the Winsor School and Rivers School Conservatory while continuing an extensive private piano studio.

Yoshiko received her BM at Toho-Gakuen Conservatory of Music and MM, with honors, at New England Conservatory of Music. Principal teachers have included Gabriel Chodos, Yoriko Takahashi and Tamiko Ishimoto.

Further information [here](#)

**David Massengill**, storyteller, songwriter and picture-book maker, "emigrated" from Bristol, Tennessee to the Greenwich Village folk scene in 1976 with a dulcimer and a dream of bohemian nirvana. He was a key figure in Jack Hardy's Fast Folk which featured Suzanne Vega and Shawn Colvin, and which produced 115 issues of *The Fast Folk Musical Magazine*, now part of the Smithsonian collection.

David's songwriting style ranges from tragic mountain ballads to the lure of tender love songs and iconic political narratives. His songs have been recorded by Joan Baez, David Bromberg, Chad Mitchell, the Roches, Lucy Kaplansky, Tom Russell, Nanci Griffith and

his mentor, Dave Van Ronk, who once said that David "took the dull out of dulcimer." *Dave on Dave: A Tribute to Dave van Ronk* is among David Massengill's six CDs, 11 bootlegs, 15 books, a movie score, *Boudicca Bites Back*, and school programs. In 2016 the Southern Folklife Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill offered to archive his works. He accepted, thus joining his friends and heroes Dave Van Ronk, Bill Morrissey and Mike Seeger as a member. He once chased a bobcat, and visa versa.

The *Boston Globe* loved his "upbeat humor, enticing stage presence and ability to sling an Appalachian dulcimer over his shoulder like an electric guitar made it look and sound right. The multi- talented Massengill, a master of vivid lyrical imagery, was riveting with his ironic, anecdotal civil rights anthem, 'Number One in America'."

Further information [here](#)

**Lucy McDiarmid** is a scholar and writer. Her academic interest in cultural politics, especially quirky, colorful, suggestive episodes, is exemplified by *The Irish Art of Controversy* (2005) and *Poets and the Peacock Dinner: the literary history of a meal* (2014; paperback 2016). She is a former fellow of the Guggenheim Foundation and of the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library. Her most recent book is *At Home in the Revolution: what women said and did in 1916*; at the moment she is completing a book on contemporary Irish poetry. She is currently Marie Frazee Baldassarre Professor of English at Montclair State University. Her dating memoir will be published soon, but not too soon.

Further information [here](#)

**Kenneth Radnofsky**, saxophonist, has appeared as soloist with leading orchestras throughout the world, including the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and New York Philharmonic under Kurt Masur, Jerusalem Symphony with Gisele Ben-Dor and Boston Pops with John Williams. Radnofsky gave the world premiere of Gunther Schuller's Concerto with the Pittsburgh Symphony (composer conducting). David Amram's Concerto, *Ode to Lord Buckley*, was premiered with the Portland Symphony, under Bruce Hangen's direction, as well as three other works dedicated to him from Amram, including a new trio entitled *Three Lost Loves*, for violin, saxophone and piano written for his Amram Ensemble' (with Elmira Darvarova and Thomas Weaver).

Of the 100-plus works he has commissioned, Ken has also premiered the works of Michael Colgrass, John Harbison, Donald Martino, Michael Gandolfi, Betty Olivero,

James Yannatos, Baris Perker, Jakov Jakoulov, Osnat Netzer, Elliott Schwartz, Michael Horvit and Yang Yong, to name but a few.

Concurrent with his US performing and teaching, Ken Radnofsky designed and implemented a saxophone program for Venezuela with saxophone professor Claudio Dioguardi, as well as teaching in Brazil, Turkey, and frequently in Israel, Taiwan and China. He is committed to outreach on an international scale and his editorial on such was published in the *Christian Science Monitor*. He is President of the Boston Woodwind Society, an organization dedicated to fostering the development of talented young woodwind players, and co-founder with Michael Couper of RCEditions (woodwind music publishing house).

Ken teaches at New England Conservatory, Longy School of Bard College, Boston University, and world-wide. He is a Selmer Artist.

Further information [here](#)

**Cecilia Rubino** has written, devised and directed theater pieces which recently have performed at Lincoln Center's Walter Reade and Bruno Walter Theaters, the New Victory @ 42nd Street, Jefferson Market Playhouse, the New York Fringe and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. Her just-completed documentary, *Remembering Shakespeare*, explores new ways of thinking about memory and Shakespeare's words in our digital age where memory itself is at risk. Her chapter, "If It Live in Your Memory" appears in *The Whirlwind of Passion: New Critical Perspectives on William Shakespeare* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing). At Jefferson Market Library Playhouse, she recently directed *Lives of Tiresias* which she co-wrote with David Richman; *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*; and her own adaptation of Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*. Rubino also wrote and directed *From The Fire*, which won the UK/Music Theater awards for best music, best production and best new musical at the Edinburgh Fringe Theater Festival. She is an Associate Professor of Theater at Lang College/The New School.

Further information [here](#)

**Happy Traum**, renowned folk singer, writer, teacher, recording artist and first-rate fingerstyle guitarist, began playing guitar and five-string banjo as a teenager, and was an important participant in the legendary Greenwich Village folk scene of the 1950s and '60s. He was a student of blues guitar legend Brownie McGhee, a major influence on his

picking style. Happy has played in concerts, clubs and festivals throughout the US, Canada, Europe, Australia and Japan, both solo and with his late brother, Artie Traum, with whom he performed for more than 40 years. Their performances at the 1968 and 1969 Newport Folk Festivals helped to gain them an avid following and a contract with famed manager Albert Grossman.

“Between them they've been studio musicians, composers, comedians, writers, editors, folklorists, and a host of other things... A brilliant and unique entity in the world of country-folk music” - the *New York Times*.

Happy has since appeared and/or recorded with Bob Dylan, Levon Helm, John Sebastian, Larry Campbell, Eric Andersen, Allen Ginsberg, Jim Kweskin, Maria Muldaur and many other major figures in the folk music world. As one of America's best-known guitar instructors, Happy has taught at major guitar workshops throughout the country and overseas; is the author of more than a dozen best-selling guitar instruction books; and has produced more than 500 music lessons on DVDs and CDs for his internationally-renowned company, Homespun Tapes. Happy's latest CD, *Just For the Love of It*, was released in October, 2015.

Further information [here](#)

***The Village Trip***: A new annual festival honoring the history and heritage of Greenwich Village. Find out more at [www.thevillagetrip.com](http://www.thevillagetrip.com)